

Magor and St. Mellons Rural District Council.

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
Sanitary Inspector.

For the Year 1943.

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1944.



MAGOR & ST. MELLONS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending 31st December, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Magor and
St. Mellons Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report upon the general conditions of Public Health for the year for the Rural District of Magor and St. Mellons.

The Report is drawn up on the lines laid down in the Ministry of Health (Wales) Circular, and is in the nature of an Interim Report only—in accordance with the Ministry's recommendation.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (consisting of twenty-six parishes)	...	44,074	acres
Number of inhabited houses	...	3,343	
Rateable value	...	£82,717	
Sum represented by penny rate	...	*£330	

* As ascertained in the prescribed manner under R & V. Act, 1925.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE.

The number of Births registered was :—

	M.	F.	Total
Total Births	113	102	215
Legitimate	112	101	213
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Still Births	—	3	3

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of population for 1943 was ... 18.0

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1943 was ... 16.5

The Birth Rate for Monmouthshire was 18.6

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:

Number of Deaths 1 (boy), giving a Rate per 1,000 live births of ...	...	...	...	...	...	4.71
The Rate for the whole England and Wales was ...	...	...	...	...	...	49.0
The Rate for Monmouthshire was ...	...	...	...	...	...	44.95
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Ages of Children at Death under 1 year:

Under 1 week	...	...	...	1		
1—2 weeks	...	...	...	Nil		
2—3 weeks	...	...	...	Nil		
3—4 weeks	...	...	...	Nil		
Total under 1 month	...	...	1			
1—3 months	...	...	...	Nil		
3—6 months	...	...	...	Nil		
6—9 months	...	...	...	Nil		
9—12 months	...	...	...	Nil		
Total under 1 year	...	...	1			

DEATH RATE.

The number of Deaths registered during the year was 137 (M. 71, F. 66), giving Death Rate of 11.5 per 1,000.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was ...	...	12.1
The Death Rate for Monmouthshire was ...	...	11.39
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	Nil
Deaths from other Puerperal causes ...	...	1
Giving a Rate per 1,000 births of ...	...	4.71

Causes Of Death.

	M.	F.
Typhoid Fever, etc.	---	---
Measles	---	---
Scarlet Fever	---	---
Whooping Cough	---	---
Diphtheria	---	---
Influenza	---	---
Encephalitis Lethargica	---	---
Cerebro-spinal Fever	---	---
Respiratory Tuberculosis	---	3
Other Tuberculosis	---	1
Cancer	---	12
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	---	9
Heart Disease	---	22

Other Diseases of circulatory System	—	3	3
Bronchitis	—	4	6
Pneumonia	—	3	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1	Nil.
Peptic Ulcer	—	Nil.	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	—	Nil.	Nil.
Appendicitis	—	Nil.	Nil.
Other Digestive Diseases	—	Nil.	2
Nephritis	—	2	1
Puerperal Sepsis	—	Nil.	Nil.
Other Puerperal	—	Nil.	1
Premature Birth	—	1	Nil.
Congenital causes, etc.	—	Nil.	Nil.
Syphilitic Diseases	—	Nil.	1
Road Traffic Accidents	—	1	Nil.
Other violent causes	—	2	1
All Other causes	—	7	3

HOSPITAL SERVICES, etc.

There were no changes in the Services during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health (part time).

Sanitary Inspector (whole time officer).

A contribution of one-half the salaries is paid by the Ministry of Health.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) **General.**—No provision is made by the Council for general nursing. This work is carried on by private enterprise and District Nursing Associations, supported by voluntary contributions.

There is no change from previous years.

(b) **For Infectious Diseases.**—Nil.

Midwives.—The number of midwives practising in the area is 6:—

Bassaleg	...	1	Undy	...	1
Castleton	...	1	Rhiwderin	...	1
St. Mellons	...	1	Rogerstone	...	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.—The general position regarding water supplies throughout the area remains substantially the same as indicated in previous Reports.

During the year work was completed on new water mains in the Parishes of Magor, Redwick and Nash.

Work is being proceeded with on new water mains to provide piped water supplies to Houses in the Parc-Seymour and Catsash Districts.

No. of Parishes :

(a) With Local Authority or Statutory Water Under-takers' piped supply	...	...	...	20
(b) Without Local Authority or Statutory Water Under-takers' piped supply	...	...	...	*6
	* (Private piped supplies are provided in three of the six Parishes from Estate Private Reservoirs)			

In Parishes with Local Authority or Statutory Water Under-takers' piped supply :—

(a) No. of dwelling houses served	...	...	...	2,758
(b) No. of dwelling houses not served	...	...	...	* 254
	* (Of this number, 14 houses are provided with piped supplies from Estate Private Reservoirs)			
(c) Population served	...	...	...	10,697 approx.
(d) Population not served	...	...	...	1,013 approx.

In Parishes without Local Authority or Statutory Water Under-takers' piped supply :—

(a) No. of dwelling houses concerned	...	...	...	330
	(Of these 330 houses, approximately 71 are provided with a piped water supply from Estate Private Reservoirs)			
(b) Population concerned	...	...	...	1,290 approx.

Drainage and Sewerage.—During the year 1942 there was no important extensions or alterations to the sewerage and drainage systems in this area.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

(See Sanitary Inspector's Report—Page 9.)

Smoke Abatement.—It has not been found necessary to take any action under this head.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year ...	...	Nil
(i) By the Local Authority ...	...	Nil
(ii) By other Local Authorities ...	...	Nil
(iii) By other Bodies or persons ...	...	Nil
1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:		
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	...	118
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	...	263
(2) Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...		75
2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notice:		
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	...	56
3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:		
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ...	...	3
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :—		
(a) By Owners ...	...	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners		Nil
4.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	...	16
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :—		
(a) By Owners ...	...	16
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners		Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—A large proportion of the milk produced in the District is sold in Cardiff and Newport Areas.

There are 262 registered wholesale producers of Milk in the Council Area, and 114 milk retailers.

Routine visits of inspection of Dairy Farms, Cowsheds and Dairies continue to be carried out by your Sanitary Inspector as far as is possible in the present abnormal conditions.

Since the commencement of the War it has not been possible to devote as much time as in pre-war years to this important work, because of other additional duties requiring attention.

Notifiable Diseases.

Analysis of Total Cases and Deaths from Infectious Diseases, according to Age Groups for 1943.

DISEASE	Cases Notified.	Age Groups.	Deaths.			Age Groups.																			
			Under 1 Year	1-2	2-3		3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & Over	Total all ages	Under 1 yr.	65 & over	Total all ages	Under 1 yr.	65 & over	Total all ages	Under 1 yr.	65 & over	
Diphtheria	...	1	1	1	1	3	27	Nil.	3
Scarlet Fever	2	32	1	Nil.	8
Enteric Fever	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	5	9	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enceph. Lethargica	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	2	1	5	5	6	16	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	3	2	5	5	6	16	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	3	2	5	5	6	16	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	...	...	3	2	5	5	6	16	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	3	2	5	9	10	40	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
																	4	6	10	16					

Tuberculosis is not included in this summary.

Cancer was not unduly prevalent. Facilities provided at the Radium Centre at Cardiff are used by sufferers from this disease.

Blindness cases are treated by the County in the case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and in the Borough for others.

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1 years	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...
1-5 "	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...
5-15 "	..	...	4	2	...	...	...	...
15-25 "	2	2	..	..	1	..	...	...
25-35 "	..	..	..	1	..	2	...	...
35-45 "	4	1	1	..	..	..	...	2
45-65 "	1	1	1	1	2	1	...	2
65 and up	1	..	..	..	..	..	...	..
Total	8	4	7	4	3	3	1	2

The rate of Non-notified T.B. Deaths to total T.B. Deaths is Nil.

The incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis compares favourably with other areas.

Notifications of cases by Private Medical Practitioners are prompt and satisfactory.

There is nothing requiring special note of an industrial character, or in conditions of employment, predisposing to Tuberculosis.

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

All cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases are visited and investigated by the Sanitary Inspector after the receipt of a Notification. Where necessary, arrangements are made for the removal of the Patient to an Isolation Hospital, if accommodation is available.

The examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens are carried out at the County Council Laboratory.

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is supplied free by the Council.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—During the year 1943 a total of 233 children were immunised.

No. of children under 5 years was 74

No. of children between 5 and 15 years was 159

During 1936—220 children were treated.

During 1937—373 children were treated.

During 1941—632 children were treated.

During 1942—208 children were treated.

There were only 3 cases of Diphtheria and 27 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year. Most of these cases were of a mild type.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) **Regulations, 1925.**

Under these regulations a person suffering from Tuberculosis is prohibited from engaging in an occupation which involves the handling of milk by him under such conditions as to create a danger of infection of the milk.

It has not been found necessary to take any action under these regulations.

Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 172).

No action was taken under Section 172 for compulsory removal to Hospital of any infectious persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Under this enactment a Local Authority are empowered to apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order for the removal of any person suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis who is in an infectious state, for his detention and maintenance therein for such period not exceeding three months as the Court thinks fit.

I have the honour to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HARVEY NICHOL.

MAGOR & ST. MELLONS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

To the Chairman and Members of the Magor and St. Mellons Rural District Council.

I beg to submit, herewith, an abbreviated Report of the Sanitary and other work carried out during the year ending 31st December, 1943.

157 Notices or informal Intimations relating to various nuisances and their abatement were sent during the year.

Under present war conditions comparatively little action was possible under the Housing Acts, but despite the restrictions on building materials and the shortage of available labour, a good deal of essential repair work was carried out this year, mainly as the result of personal or informal representations made to the owners or agents concerned.

During the year two structurally defective houses previously reported upon as being "unfit" for human habitation, and subsequently vacated, were repaired and put in a tenantable condition, and re-let for occupation—subject to a Licence granted by the Council.

One "unfit" house, previously reported upon, was vacated, and now remains unoccupied.

Appropriate action was taken with reference to the occupation by a family of an improvised structure as a temporary dwelling which was unfit for use for human habitation. This structure has now been vacated.

Some verminous premises respecting which complaints were received were effectively dealt with.

House Refuse Collection.

Collection of house refuse is carried out by Contract in the Parishes of Marshfield, St. Mellons, Henllys, Llanwern, and Langstone.

In the Parishes of Rogerstone, Graig, and Duffryn, this work is now carried out by the Council, by direct labour, since April, 1943.

Difficulties were experienced in some parts of the district in getting the work carried out on the appointed days because of labour shortage and transport restrictions, etc., especially in the Rogerstone Area prior to the Council taking over the work.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

The Refuse Tips have been periodically " baited " during the year, and complaints and enquiries received from householders respecting nuisance from rats on their premises dealt with.

A " Contract " has been entered into between Magor and St. Mellons Rural District Council and the Mon. War Agricultural Executive Committee, under which their Pests Department have undertaken to carry out the work of rat destruction and disinfection at the Council's Refuse Tips and Salvage Dumps, for which work the Council have agreed to make a specified annual payment.

Summary of Inspections, Repairs, etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out and inspections made during the year :—

Houses repaired	...	...	...	...	...	75
Houses represented as " unfit "	...	...	...	...	...	1
" Unfit " Houses vacated	...	...	...	...	...	2
Additional light and ventilation in rooms	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pantries or Larders provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Floors of living rooms relaid, or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Forecourts and backyards to houses newly paved or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rainwater troughing and down pipes repaired or renewed (premises)	...	...	...	...	...	36
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	65
Damp walls repaired and remedied	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspections following complaints	...	...	...	...	...	39
Various nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	43
New drains to houses	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	19
Wells repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Premises provided with more adequate supply of water	...	...	...	...	...	34

Infectious Diseases.

All cases of notified Infectious Diseases were visited and investigated, and the house disinfected at the certified termination of each infectious illness.

Visits made	...	...	...	...	...	98
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	39
Cases removed to Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	16

Water Supplies.

Number of samples taken, 6.

These samples were taken from Council's Reservoir, Castleton; private reservoirs, and "Well" and "Spring" water supplies in the Rural District.

Appropriate action was taken when necessary on Reports received upon the samples submitted for analysis.

Thirty-four house connections from the Council's water mains were carried out during the year, and 20 during 1942.

Water Closets.

New W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	3
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	21
New flush tanks provided to existing houses	...	...	...	...	...	7
Flush tanks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
Defective closet pans replaced by new ones	...	...	...	...	...	9

Cesspools.

New cesspools constructed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9

Slaughterhouses.

In consequence of centralised slaughtering having been introduced throughout the country by the Ministry of Food under their scheme of Livestock and Meat Control, no slaughtering of animals has been carried out during the year in the slaughterhouses in this Rural District.

Eleven applications were received for licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act, and annual licences were granted in each case by the Council.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Approximately $1\frac{1}{4}$ cwts. of meat and $8\frac{1}{3}$ cwts. of various articles of Food, including 698 tins of evaporated or condensed milk, were found on inspection and examination by me to be unfit for human consumption, and were suitably disposed of for purposes other than for human food.

In view of the necessity for salvaging all "food waste," arrangements were made with the Authorities concerned for as much as possible of this "condemned" food to be used for "by-products," etc.

Milk Supply.

Inspections of the Cowsheds, Dairies, etc., in the Council's area have been carried out during the year, and representations made to the persons responsible regarding any insanitary conditions, etc., requiring to be remedied.

Because of extra "War Duties," depletion of office staff, petrol restrictions, etc., normal routine inspections, as in pre-war years, have had to be curtailed. But every effort has been made to carry out as regularly as possible in this widely scattered area periodic inspections of Dairy Farm premises, in conjunction with other essential duties requiring to be attended to in the present abnormal conditions.

Number of Producers and/or Wholesale Traders on the Register	262
Number of Retail Purveyors on the Register, 31/12/43	*114

(* Of this number 52 are also Registered as Producers.)

Cowsheds and Dairies.

New cowsheds erected	...	...	...	...	1
New outbuildings for milk cooling utensils, etc.	...				5
Cowsheds repaired	...	...	...	...	9
New floors constructed or repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Increased light and ventilation	...	...	...	...	4
Drains provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	5
More adequate water supply provided	...	...	...	...	3
Representations as to limewashing and cleansing	...				29

Milk Samples—Bacteriological Examination.

During the year, 70 routine samples of bulk milk supplies were collected by me in various parts of the Rural District for bacteriological examination at the County Laboratory, representing the milk supply from approximately 780 cows.

These routine samples are taken primarily for the purpose of detecting any Tuberle Bacilli present in the milk, or any manurial or other contamination. One of these samples was found to contain Tuberle Bacilli and was dealt with by the Animal Health Division, Ministry of Agriculture. The infected animal was isolated and slaughtered.

The following is a summary of the bacteriological standard of these 70 bulk samples examined at the County Laboratory :—

33 samples conformed to a satisfactory standard of bacteriological purity.

23 samples were found to be fairly satisfactory.

The remaining 14 samples were found to be unsatisfactory, and the producers and/or retailers concerned were communicated with and necessary action taken with a view to obtaining an improved standard in these milk supplies.

The minimum standard of purity aimed at is that stipulated for " accredited " milk.

I beg to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. O. LEWIS,

Sanitary Inspector, &c.



